

Message Text

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53

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SAM-01 /106 W

----- 044343

R 281215Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2810

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS TRIPOLI 1448

DEPT PLEASE PASS USINT BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR XF

SUBJECT: DETAILS OF VIENNA ATTACK FROM LIBYAN MINISTER

1. THE LIBYAN ARMY WEEKLY "AL-FATIH" PUBLISHED ON
DECEMBER 27 AN INTERVIEW WITH OIL MINISTER MABROUK
IN WHICH HE DISCUSSES THE ATTACK ON OPEC HEADQUARTERS
IN VIENNA. MABROUK'S ACCOUNT GENERALLY CONFIRMS OTHER
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VERSIONS OF THE ATTACK. THE TERRORISTS ARE DESCRIBED

THROUGHOUT AS FEDAYEEN, THE NEWSPAPERS'S ONLY COMMENT ON THE OPERATION IS A PRUDENT ONE, IN THE ABSENCE OF OTHER POLITICAL GUIDANCE: "IT WAS A REVOLUTIONARY AND A TRAGIC ACTION AT THE SAME TIME. SINCE ANY CORRECT EVALUATION OF IT WILL REQUIRE AN EVALUATION OF ITS CONSEQUENCES, IT WOULD BE TOO EARLY TO MAKE ONE NOW."

2. MABROUK SAYS HE WAS IN THE BATHROOM WHEN THE TERRORISTS ATTACKED, AND HID THERE FOR SOME TIME UNTIL THE SHOOTING STOPPED. THUS HE DID NOT SEE THE DEATH OF HIS YOUNG LIBYAN COLLEAGUE, YOUSSEF IZMARLI. HE QUOTES THE TERRORIST LEADER, CARLOS, AS SAYING THAT IZMARLI HAD ATTACKED HIM, AND THAT "IF I HAD NOT HAD A ROVolver IN MY POCKET, WE MIGHT ALL HAVE BEEN PLACED IN AN UNEVIABLE POSITON. HE WAS STRONG AS A TIGER. I WOULD NOT HAVE SHOT HIM EXCEPT I THOUGHT HE WAS ONE OF THE GUARDS." CARLOS WAS ALONE IN THE ROOM WHEN IZMARLI ATTACKED HIM, ACCORDING TO MABROUK'S ACCOUNT.

3. CARLOS: MABROUK DESCRIBES CARLOS IN ADMIRING TERMS. HE PROBABLY GOT PAST THE GUARDS BECAUSE OF HIS "ELEGANCE" AND HIS TALL CARRIAGE, WHICH MADE THEM THINK HE WAS A MEMBER OF SOME DELEGATION, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS CARRYING A SKI BAG WITH WEAPONS IN IT. CARLOS WAS CLEARLY IN CHARGE, MABROUK SAYS. THE ONLY MISTAKE HE MADE DURING THE WHOLE OPERATION WAS TO LET ONE GROUP BOARD THE AIRCRAFT UNGUARDED. WHEN TWO OF HIS CONFEDERATES POINTED THIS OUT TO HIM, HE "INSULTED THEM AND REMINDED THEM WHO WAS THE BOSS OF THE OPERATION." AT ONE POINT, MARBOUK QUOTES CARLOS AS SAYING: "I KNOW YOU WOULD THINK I AM A JEW TO LOOK AT ME. WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT? I CAN'T HELP IT THAT I HAVE A JEWISH APPEARANCE." CARLOS AND HIS CONDEDERATES ARE DESCRIBED AS HAVING A "HIGH CULTURAL LEVEL," AND AS POSSESSING "PRECISE POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE."

4. THE OTHER TERRORISTS: MABROUK DESCRIBES TWO OTHER TERRORISTS, ONE AN ARAB-LOOKING YOUNG MAN WHO SAID UNCLASSIFIED

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LITTLE BUT CONTINUALLY TWIRLED A REVOLVER, AND THE OTHER A "SLIGHT YOUNG WOMAN WHO SPOKE FLUENT ENGLISH." SHE WAS THE ONE WHO SHOT BOTH THE IRAQI DELEGATE, ACCORDING TO MABROUK AFTER HE PULLED A REVOLVER HE WAS CARRYING, AND THE AUSTRIAN POLICEMEN.

5. MABROUK SAYS THE HOSTAGES WERE DIVIDED BY CARLOS INTO THREE GROUPS: PROGRESSIVES (LIBYA, ALGERIA, IRAQ

AND KUWAIT "BECAUSE KUWAIT HAD RECENTLY GIVEN GOOD TREATMENT TO A FEDAYEEN GROUP"), FRIENDS (ECUADOR, VENEZUELA, NIGERIA, GABON), AND REACTIONARIES (SAUDI ARABIA, IRAN, QATAR AND THE UAE). CARLOS DID ALL HE COULD TO REASSURE THE "FRIENDS AND PROGRESSIVES," BUT KEPT THE "REACTIONARIES" UNDER CLOSE GUARD.

6. IN ALGIERS, MABROUK SAYS, IT WAS PROPOSED TO THE TERRORISTS THAT THEY STAY, AND IN RETURN THEY WERE PROMISED THAT NONE OF THE MINISTERS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY UNTIL THEY GAVE PERMISSION. THE TERRORISTS REFUSED THIS OFFER, AND INSISTED ON GOING ON TO TRIPOLI.
CARLE

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